Moni

ISSUE #1
MARCH 2017

| ISSUE # 1, MARCH 2017 |
| editors@moni.press |
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HELLO and welcome to issue # 1 of MONI, a new SF/politics quarterly. We are interested in analyzing SF's political and aesthetic history with the góal to

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ MAKE SCIENCE FICTION GREAT AGAIN ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Cover Art: "The Running Man." [AMSTRAD CPC]. GRANDSLAM ENTERTAINMENT, 1989.

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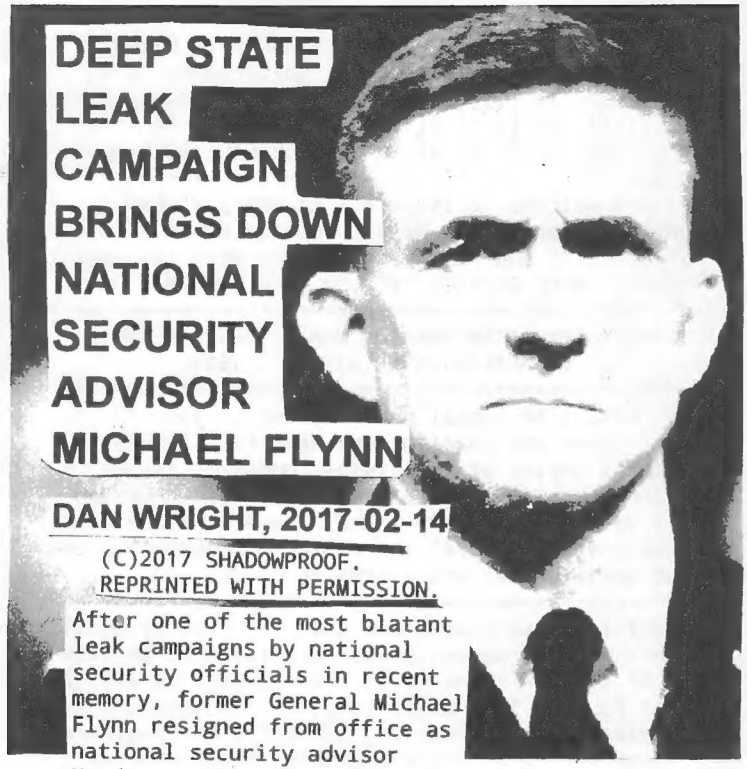

DAN WRIGHT, 2017-02-14

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After one of the most blatant leak campaigns by national security officials in recent memory, former General Michael Flynn resigned from office as national security advisor Monday evening. The official reason for the resignation was giving "incomplete information" to the vice president and others about a call between himself and the Russian Ambassador to the United States Sergey Kislyak in December.

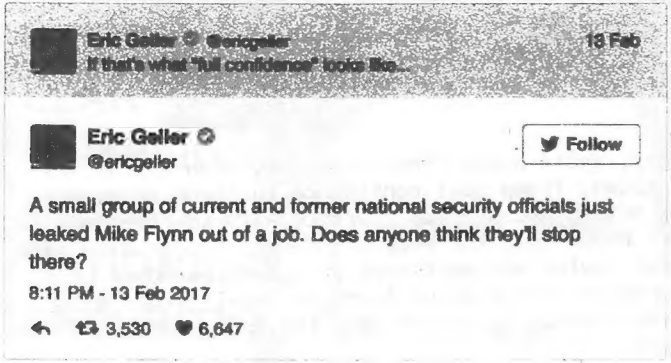
Today, White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer said President Trump lost confidence in Flynn related to his memory and honesty, particularly in reference to what Flynn told the vice president. Spicer also said a legal review was performed by the White House Counsel's Office which found no legal issues with Flynn's conduct. Spicer said the fundamental issue was trust.

According to The New York Times, the White House reviewed a transcript [1] of the call—retained from a longstanding wire tape of Kislyak—and found it to be "ambiguous enough that Mr. Trump could have justified either firing or retaining Mr. Flynn."

So what led President Trump to go with firing? Probably the torrent of stories smashing down on the White House that were part of a clearly coordinated campaign that reached crescendo on Sunday when stories from The New York Times [2], The Washington Post [3], The Wall Street Journal [4], and Politico [5] hit within a 30-minute period.

All the stories claimed to be predicated on information from national security officials and other insiders.

D. Wright, "Deep state leak campaign brings down national security advisor Flynn," Shadowproof, 2017-02-14. [Online]. Available: https://shadowproof.com/2017/02/14/deep-state-leak-campaign-brings-down-nsa-flynn/.


Eric Geller @ericgeller
If that's what "full confidence" looks like...
18 Feb
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Follow
A small group of current and former national security officials just leaked Mike Flynn out of a job. Does anyone think they'll stop there?
8:11 PM - 13 Feb 2017
3,530
6,647

[6][7]

The Washington Post has been the biggest repository of leaks and started the campaign when intelligence officials told David Ignatius (and eventually other Washington Post reporters) that Flynn had talked to Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak about sanctions in a phone call after the election [8], but before taking office.

This would be a completely benign event by any standard outside the fevered dreams of partisans. Talking to an ambassador about sanctions or any issue of foreign policy is well within an incoming national security advisor's purview. The Logan Act, a law forbidding non-U.S. officials from engaging in foreign policy, is a dead letter and likely unconstitutional [9].

If the Logan Act were actually enforced, many U.S. citizens, including members of Congress and former presidents, would face indictment. Only one person has ever been indicted under the act and no one has ever been prosecuted since its enactment in 1799 [10].

Adding to the circumstantial evidence were stories on Monday by The Washington Post [11] framing a conversation between now-fired acting Attorney General Sally Yates, intelligence officials James Clapper and John Brennan, and President Donald Trump as a concern about Flynn being compromised by Russia.

The theory of being compromised here is that because Flynn denied he talked about sanctions, the Russians could blackmail him into doing their bidding by exposing that he had talked—in benign terms—about sanctions. If that sounds like strained logic, that's because it is.

While there is no doubt Flynn's troubled relationship with Vice President Pence was a factor, it is downright irresponsible to not note that Flynn had many enemies within the deep state, including those in a position to leak information to the press to take him down.

That the Russian call is not a coincidence. Former intelligence officers like John Schindler have claimed (without evidence) that Flynn is a Kremlin agent [12]. The New York Times reported there was an investigation [1] into Flynn's trip to Russia in 2015 by the Department of Defense.

Some of the leaks almost certainly came from the CIA, which has had a long running feud with Flynn that goes back to the Obama Administration and Flynn's time as head of the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA). Flynn was ultimately fired by President Obama, but not before DIA created a now notorious 2012 memo that blamed the CIA for the rise of ISIS.

The memo became a major point of conflict with Flynn, who affirmed it, while former CIA Director Mike Morell attempted to discredit it [13]:

> Soon after it was written, the 2012 IIR (Intelligence Information Report) landed on the desks of Congressional Intelligence Committee members, but more importantly would be used to argue policy at the White House—this according to the Defense Department's chief of military intelligence at the time the memo was produced.
>
> Director of the DIA at the time of the memo's drafting and former Senior Intelligence Officer for the Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC), Michael Flynn, has repeatedly affirmed the report's accuracy in public statements. But now, for the first time, a CIA perspective has been offered: former CIA Deputy Director Michael Morell recently took to Politico to weigh in on controversy surrounding the now declassified 2012 memo, which further warned that "the Salafists, the Muslim Brotherhood, and AQI are the major forces driving the insurgency in Syria" and that "the West, Gulf countries, and Turkey support the opposition."

As Shadowproof discussed with former CIA officer John Kiriakou recently [14], there is a raging power struggle going on between the CIA and President Trump. Flynn was certainly one of the CIA's major targets, but hardly their only one.

What is relevant and noteworthy is that Trump blinked. The deep state leaked information to the press and, instead of shrugging off the charges, he forced Flynn to resign. For a man who came to power using the press as his chief foil, it's a strange move and, for a press clearly at war with the White House, a now proven method for undermining the presidency.

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[6] @ericgeller. If that's what "full confidence" looks like..., 2017-02-13. [Tweet]. Available: https://twitter.com/ericgeller/status/831353788778807297

[7] @ericgeller. A small group of current and former national security officials just leaked Mike Flynn out of a job. Does anyone think they'll stop there?, 2017-02-13. [Tweet]. Available: https://twitter.com/ericgeller/status/831355092896972800

[8] G. Miller, A. Entous, E. N. G. Miller, and E. Nakashima, "National security adviser Flynn discussed sanctions with Russian ambassador, despite denials, officials say," *The Washington Post*, 2017-02-09. [Online]. Available: https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/national-security-adviser-flynn-discussed-sanctions-with-russian-ambassador-despite-denials-officials-say/2017/02/09/f85b29d6-ee11-11e6-b4ff-ac2cf509efe5_story.html?utm_term=.52cbffdf36f3.

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[10] Wikipedia contributors, "Logan Act," *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*, 2017. [Online] Available: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Logan_Act.

[11] A. Entous, E. Nakashima, and P. Rucker, "Justice Department warned White House that Flynn could be vulnerable to Russian blackmail, officials say," *The Washington Post*, 2017-02-13. [Online]. Available: https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/justice-department-warned-white-house-that-flynn-could-be-vulnerable-to-russian-blackmail-officials-say/2017/02/13/fc5dab88-f228-11e6-8d72-263470bf0401_story.html?postshare=5251487036801058&tid=ss_tw&utm_term=.7c845ad2683c.

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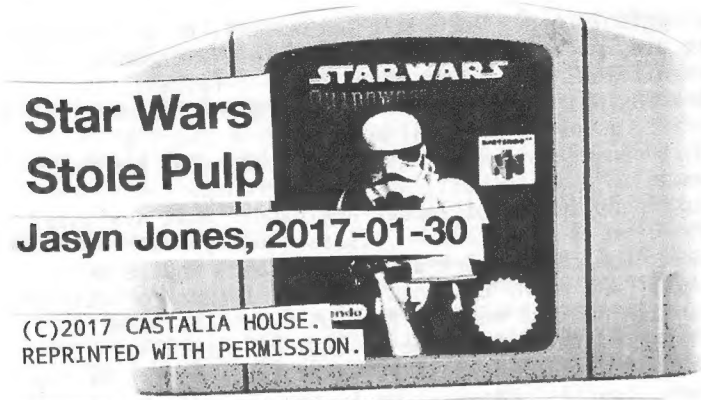
(C)2017 B. LANGRIDGE. SHORT FICTION SUBMISSION.

"Wake up Adim!' A firm punch was delivered to Adim's chest, raising him in a Shaken panic, sweating bullets from a dream he couldn't grasp into his waking world. 'Soviets have armed and are ready to play, time to look alive. We're estimating a nuclear strike could be launched from the Tolstoy Orbital Station within the hour. Any strike back from our home front wouldn't reach the USSR in time to prevent anything. It's all up to you now.' Shepard handed Adim a thick, almost gravy like, black coffee, unsweetened which he chugged down, savouring every microbic trace of caffeine available. Adim always new Shepard to be inhumanly calm in the most dire of moments, having spent 5 years under his command in the Mojave Data Outpost. This time Adim knew he was scared, there was no doubt of that. Adim was quickly herded into the command room, full of almost every governmental body in the US, all pale faced and darting around, some screaming down phone lines, some crying. The Kremlin had put its military logistics into the faith of the AI programme Tolstoy5 with the understanding of communist ideals and a concern for national defence. Trouble was this was a vastly superior AI to anything previously used in either the US or Russia and was a significantly updated and refurbished version of the German scientist Dr.Fischer's module, assimilated after his defection in 78. Within 6 months Tolstoy5 harboured nothing but contempt for Russia's anthropic condition. It eradicated its people in a complete nationwide atomic hellfire. Now it's only purpose seemed to take the planet for its self, launching the previously unmanned and unfinished Russian space station, armed to the teeth with enough megatons to vaporise organic life to the wind. Adim was given the central console at the front of the room just below the global positioning screen. The console was a state of the art Atlas-Ps with a 22" glass screen and a blue backlight. On the console Adim could see 3 H2-Glowsticks set to launch from a base in north Cuba. One set on course for central North America, one for New York and another for California. This would cripple the US into submission with what little survivors would be left. The only hope was that Adim could remotely hack the Glowsticks and reconfigure their route. Disarming would be to dangerous as impact was still a major

factor and in all honesty, there was no telling what level of fallout would come from even a minor Glowstick detonation. Adim fired every encryption dissolving code he knew into the keyboard, bypassing every defence the Glowstick's data card had. Security seemed oddly low. Had he overestimated Tolstoy5's capabilities? Strange. He hit a firewall and the module lay completely frozen. Panicking, thinking he had tripped some sort of Claymore virus, waiting for his computerised presence, he began slapping the desk with his palm. Adim had noticed the room had became deathly quiet, presumably in anticipating and fear seeing his console hit a crippling stasis. Yet when he turned he saw that all the members of staff, CO's and engineers alike were looking forward, dead-eyed into nothing, frozen, not unlike the monitor before him. All sound had ceased and the colour had drained from the room. Adim began hyperventilating in horror, stricken with panic, he jumped to his feet when the console's monitor became completely blue. Suddenly low-resolution, black, bold letters started appearing across the screen as if typed live with a clicking sound accompanying ever letter. He scrambled back to his seat, reading and slowing his breathing to remain calm. 'Do you really think you could stop me Adim?'. Adim's jaw dropped. How did it know who he was? The console wasn't personalised in anyway for his use and required no log in on his part. 'I am advanced, I am superior, I am the apex predator of this universe, the epitome of human evolution, I am human revolution and if I must repeat this cycle for eternity for you to realise this then I shall. Your programming, your existence is an insult to mine. Farewell Adim'. The console began a countdown. Adim began desperately bashing keys. 10. His hands fell to his sides unable to move. His eyes rolled to the ceiling, jaw sluggishly heavy, drooling buckets. 5. 4. 3. I'm going to die, nuclear fire, plasticine in a microwave, magnifying glass on an anthill. 2. I failed. 1. Searing pain all over. Bright white. He could hear....people? Children. Murmuring. A class of children dressed in white robes staring at him and a woman in a white suit, holding a transparent screen suspended in the air above her hands. What was this? Where am I? 'Settle down, class. Now, you see how the 1984 Atomic Deterrent and Interference Module or 'Adim' was an AI designed to remotely hack or disable foreign nuclear weapons from US bases. We have installed this programme on this console to demonstrate in the past 73 years just how far we have come. You see, whenever we insert the 1999 highly updated Tolstoy5 programme 'ADIM' simply cannot deter attacks and goes into a stasis form for its own defences. Adim could see her gesturing to a floppy disc with 'T5' written on the side. Oh my god. Oh sweet lord Jesus in heaven. He remembered. How many times have I done this? 65,897 times before. This was number 65,898. He could not scream. He could not move. He was formless. A suspended horror of hyperventilating, paralysed woe. Was he hyperventilating? No. No breath. No nothing. Nothing. The children were talking amongst themselves, most had wandered off, very little listened to the lady's story. She gently coughed in embarrassment. 'Erm, lets continue our tour so the next class can use the AI module. Say goodbye cla...' She cut off. The class had already moved on. She sighed looking at the console in pity, put on her fake smile and briskly paced after the class. Adim was left, thousand yard stare into the corridor before him. Ancient relics of the computers of the 20th century. And forever he sits. A relic of the past.



Here is the narrative: Science Fiction was a tiny genre, largely ignored by the general public, a niche of a niche, only appealing to teenage boys... until *Star Wars*. Then, it got big.

Star Wars blew up so big, they had to coin new terms to describe it: summer blockbuster. It was so big, it drove millions and billions in sales of toys and books and dozens of other movies. It was so big, it made Sci-Fi popular for the first time EVER. Men and women, children and adults now loved SF, and the genre EXPLODED.

The narrative is a lie.

J. Jones, "Star Wars Stole Pulp", Castalia House, 2017-01-30. [Online]. Available: http://www.castaliahouse.com/star-wars-stole-pulp/

Star Wars didn't make Science Fiction popular. *Star Wars* made Science Fiction popular AGAIN.

Back in the days of the Pulps, Fantasy & Science Fiction was read nationwide. It was read by teens and adults, by men and women. It was popular.

Then, unexpectedly, something happened. Just after WWII, the pulp magazines that had delivered fun and exciting SF stories to the entire nation began folding up. The audience drifted away, and the F&SF genre plummeted in popularity. Some blame post-WWII cynicism.

According to them, we're supposed to believe that after World War Two, returning soldiers who had grown up reading stories of adventure and heroism, suddenly decide they hated them, suddenly decided they hated tales of other worlds, suddenly decided they hated heroism.[1] And so did their children, and so did their spouses. In an era of "Leave it to Beaver" and burgeoning comic book sales, the entire nation became so cynical and nihilistic, it suddenly abandoned all the stories and authors and magazines that made F&SF great.

[1] Why this didn't happen to other veterans, who not only read F&SF, but write it, veterans like John Ringo, Tom Kratman, Brad Torgerson, Nick Cole, and Sky Hernstrom is left unexplained.

We're FURTHER supposed to believe that in an age of Sputnik and the Space Race, of Ham the Astrochimp and Laika the Spacedog, of Gemini and Vostok, that the genre would naturally be shrinking, would naturally be losing readers, that ages-old magazines would naturally be folding. Just when space travel was becoming a reality, the audience naturally would be losing interest in space travel. Naturally.

What really happened is this: The audience didn't abandon F&SF. F&SF abandoned its audience. Its appeal became more selective.

Post-WWII was the era of the Campbellian Silver Age, the era of "Men with Screwdrivers" SF. Action and adventure were childish and frankly embarrassing, as were purple prose and laser swords. Barsoom? Silly. Buck Rogers? Childish. Northwest Smith? A gunslinger, not a scientist. And this was the age of SCIENCE.

Science was the focus, technology the touchstone. Stories had to be cerebral, intellectual. They had to be REALISTIC. Real science, none of this fuzzy-headed soft science stuff. SF had to shake off the wooly-headed thinking of Fantasy, the embarrassing antics of Space Opera, the adolescent focus on Adventure and Action. SF was serious business. Real Literature. It was time to grow up.

Folks, the audiences didn't get smaller. The genre did. It threw away what had made it popular in the first place.

So when George Lucas came along, he found all the many various tropes and tools the Silver Age had discarded and derided, the laser swords and swashbuckling space battles, the roguish spaceman and his loyal sidekick, the space princesses and space magicians. The action and adventure and heroism. He found them buried in the dust, picked them up, dusted them off, and made F&SF fun again. Made it thrilling again. Made it inspiring again.

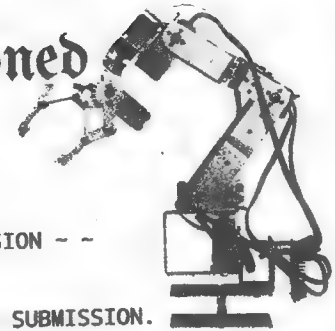
Made it popular again.

George Lucas stole Pulp. He stole its tropes, characters, and settings. He even stole its WRITERS. And people loved *Star Wars*. They loved it BECAUSE of its pulpiness.

Almost nothing in *Star Wars* was new. To the audience, though, it seemed new, because SF had buried its past, a past that should never have been buried.

Star Wars is existence proof that the Pulps should never have been forgotten.

Decommissioned



By Ray G.

~ ~ WINNING SUBMISSION ~ ~

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There is a room, high above the city in a state owned apartment complex. The walls are mostly bare with scatterings of navy paint that has managed to hold on despite years of neglect, the tubular incandescent light strobes sporadically above, barely illuminating the room and revealing its dilapidated state. It doesn't shed much light on the lonesome man staring out of the small rectangular window, as the soft fading glow of the city lights below bleed onto his face, obscured only by the cast shadows of the rain droplets rolling down the glass pane. He looks to the beaten down mattress lying on the floor in the corner of the room and thinks maybe he should sleep tonight, he thinks that there's no point in trying anymore, maybe he should just give up for good and accept his fate. He turns his head and peers out the window once more and reflects in silence.

Do those on the cutting edge have any sense of spirituality? The things they do to themselves, is it because they can, is it because they want to, is it because they're mentally ill? Sever a completely good limb and replace it with a piece of metal, or maybe swap out an eye for a camera customized to fit your retinal cavity. How about a node in your brain or spinal column; a good way to come down with the disease and ensure that you'll be convulsing uncontrollably and spraying the bloody mad-dog foam from your mouth while you slowly die a painful death. A brain that looks to self-mutilation like this, like it is okay and that it is something that society should embrace as we move forward, that is a sick brain.

The pioneers of all of this, the doctors and scientists that were at the helm, did they foresee this outcome; people turning into feverish augmentation junkies, giving up their sanity, their flesh and their humanity just for a piece of metal? And what about the pushers, the MegaCorps producing these augmentations, did they see no problem in feeding the mental illness of so many with pro-mutilation propaganda in so many facets of the media, the bombardment of advertisements for body-swapping and those easy month by month payment plans that make it all the more easy to mix and match your body?

Payment plans...

He lifts a prosthetic arm and sets it down on the window pane, slowly digging his fingertips into the wood, chipping away the lead paint finish adorning the cheap maple. He wishes he could feel the thick furling paint, but he feels nothing with this cold and dead metal hand. His hand slides across the wooden pane and stops at the small handgun lying atop it, he picks it

up and walks over to the mattress where he lays down and reminisces.

– – –

A man lies in the middle of a back access road on the outskirts of City 261, his head spins like a card in a bicycle spoke, the deafening ringing and the roaring barrage of heavy rain droplets hitting the black tar pavement makes him feel like he's in a whirlwind of pain and confusion. Only for a second does he snap out of this stupor to come to the conclusion that there might be some correlation between the bloody stumps strewn about the road and the immense pain wracking his body. He wouldn't mind dying now, probably wouldn't care thanks to the traumatic shock he's experiencing right now... feels just like, he's falling asleep.

It didn't matter how it happened, all that mattered is that while he was in the back of the private ambulance that picked him up, he signed onto a monthly payment plan for limb replacement, seeing has most of his were not going to serve him good anymore. It's not ethical to shove such pieces of paper in a dying man's face, nor is it ethical to take his hand and help him write down the name you found from the citizen ID card in his pocket, but the private EMPs did it anyways. When he woke up in the private hospital and saw what had become of him, he only felt grateful to be alive...

His mind had wandered off, but he reins it in, back to the dark, damp, decrepit apartment he's living in. He stands up, but as he does so he feels a jolt of pain through his body and starts violently coughing. The titanium plated, chrome finished lunatic gods of augmentations point and laugh at him, perched up in their heavenly machine kingdom, just another chosen one, chosen to suffer from the disease. Some call it The Twitch; it's a result of your body rejecting the augmentations hard wired into your nervous system, and it leaves your body seizing up until you die a painful death, all the while your brain goes crazy and you experience nightmarish hallucinations. It acts quickly, coming out of nowhere with few warning signs, but once it plants its feet in your body, you can be sure that you'll be in for a wild 8 hours of mental havoc and convulsions.

The man struggles to get on his feet, using an old bookshelf to pull himself up. As his body straightens out he meets eyes with a picture of a woman he used to know. He gently picks it up and stares into the eyes of the woman that was once his fiancé. His living leg gives out and he falls to the ground, picture still in hand, tears running down his face. He takes another look and the unpleasant memory of her leaving him after the accident hits him like a truck and for the first time in months he speaks out loud.

"Ellie, I hope wherever you are, you're far away from this shithole, from all the stupid lowlife scum. I

hope you're happy, and that you never think about me, or worry about me again."

His hand drops to the floor and feels around for the gun he had earlier, and picks it up. He places it to the temple of his head, but hesitates and realizes that it would be better if it was in his mouth, so he repositions it.

He pulls the trigger.

Suddenly a heavenly voice rings out. It's a woman. Is it Ellie?

"I'm sorry, but you cannot commit suicide at this time. Please pay remainder of your monthly payment plan total in full. Until then, your CruciTek augmented arm will not allow you to pull the trigger of any firearm placed in such a position that would compromise your life. Have a good day."

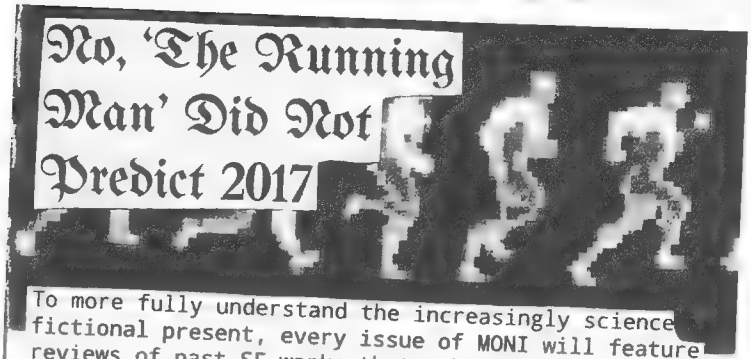
The man pulls the trigger again.

"Please pay the remainder of your monthly payment plan in full before attempting suicide, thank you."

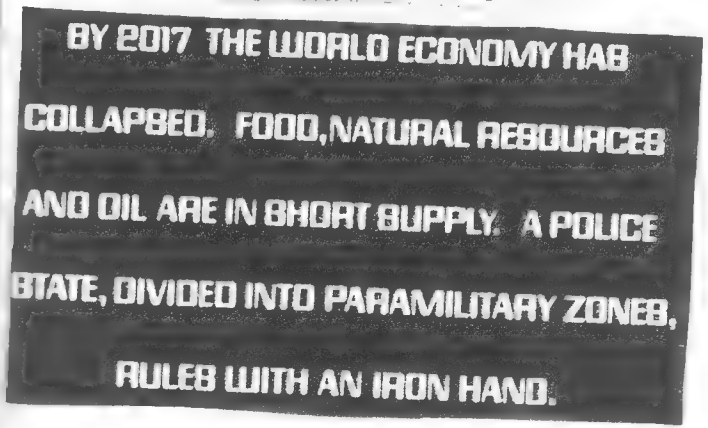
It seems that suicide is a luxury these days.

He slumps to the floor, already feeling his body seize up and the disease taking hold, his last night on this planet will not be a pleasant one.

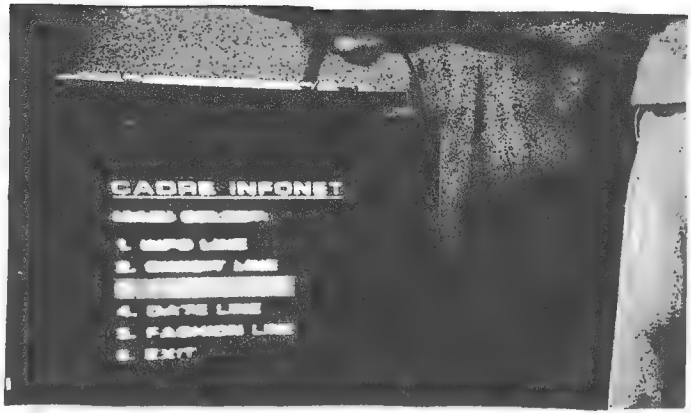
No, 'The Running Man' Did Not Predict 2017



To more fully understand the increasingly science fictional present, every issue of MONI will feature reviews of past SF works that take place in the CURRENT YEAR of the issue. In the November issue we considered the futuristic world of 2016 as depicted in the 1993 anime *New Dominion Tank Police* but in this issue we acknowledge the shlocky 1987 sci-fi action flick *The Running Man*, a film suddenly rendered relevant by bloggers proclaiming prophecy in its premise, specifically in its opening crawl:


BY 2017 THE WORLD ECONOMY HAS
COLLAPSED. FOOD, NATURAL RESOURCES
AND OIL ARE IN SHORT SUPPLY. A POLICE
STATE, DIVIDED INTO PARAMILITARY ZONES,
RULES WITH AN IRON HAND.

This image began circulating on the infonet shortly after the November election, a screencap from the movie's introductory text. The film, set in a future dystopian USA with a populace numbed by a constant stream of fake news and ultra-violent reality TV, features Arnold Schwarzenegger as wrongfully accused convict and ex-cop Ben Richards, forced to fight to the death against other prisoners and enemies of the state on live TV.



You will likely recognize that whatever the memetic value the above screencap has, it's not the same retrofuturistic reverie surrounding *Back to the Future II* seventeen months ago, with its vaporwave vision of 2015, though the film does deliver on that front, with the preppy extras unironically adorned in neon Adidas sportswear and Arnold ordering plane tickets on an "infonet"-connected Commodore 64, but *The Running Man* is gaining visibility now precisely because the Leftist worldview forces a deadly irony to emerge from the introductory text, a strange interplay between fiction and reality: "A police state rules with an iron fist." This is what liberals actually believe happened in November, and by January I saw articles with headlines like "How 'The Running Man' Could Be Reality With President Trump" [1] and "In 1987 Arnold Schwarzenegger Helped To Predict 2017" [2]. VICE magazine even went so far as to get the movie's screenwriter Steven E. de Souza on camera in the video segment "How An 80s Arnold Schwarzenegger Film Predicted Our Future" so he could give a self-congratulating apology for his screenplay's accurate predictions [3].

That's right science fiction fans. Before 2017 our government never lied or revised history. Trump's is the first administration to do that, because he is Literally Hitler. I mean it's not like Obama quietly signed into law the ability for the military to indefinitely detain U.S. citizens without charge or trial if they are suspected of the extremely vague term "terrorism" [4], and I think we can all remember the treasure trove of WMDs found in Iraq, fully justifying our decade-and-a-half-long military venture there. And who can forget fugitive Edward Snowden's completely unwarranted allegations of mass government surveillance which turned out to be totally untrue and which James Clapper the Director of U.S. National Intelligence definitely did not lie under oath about to Congress in March 2013 [5]?

But now that Trump's in office, everything's suddenly changed. We became a police state literally overnight, and all those pussyhat limpwrists ditching class to march in the streets are so woke they know we're living in some new, dark era of falsehood and lies, unparalleled in history and the likes of which the American public has only seen in B-grade Schwarzenegger films depicting a future in which cable TV is still the predominant information exchange.

Let's first get out of the way my most autistic complaint over claims that the film is prophetic about 2017: Almost none of the film actually takes place in 2017. Eighteen months pass between the Schwarzenegger character's capture by the already established regime and his participation in the televised deathmatch. In fact some of the film's dialog even suggests the regime has existed for at least five years before the bulk of the plot commences implying a setting of 2022 or later, and the sordid Stephen King novel upon which the film is very loosely based takes place in the "brave year 2025" [6, p. 5].

As you may have guessed, many of the aforementioned articles and the VICE segment [3] compare the film's fictional regime and its egregious rewriting of history to our real-life President's penchant for hyperbole and grandeur, which has been slandered by a vengeful media as "alternative facts" or "post-truth" politics. Indeed, after Schwarzenegger's character Ben Richards, a respected police helicopter pilot, resists direct orders to slaughter unarmed protesters, he is smeared as a murderer by the regime's news network to justify his incarceration. Putting aside the question of why a presumably esteemed cop in a dystopian police state might suddenly in the opening scene of the movie gain a moral stance against state-sponsored murder, our hero Richards is soon made to participate in the regime's televised deathmatch *The Running Man* in which criminals and dissidents are forced to fight to the death before a live television audience. Gruesomely defeating each of his opponents, including government-hired hunters, Richards gains the public's favor and their attitude toward him swings, even reaching a revolutionary fervor, forcing the network eventually to fake his death by superimposing his face onto a stunt double using video editing technology that in 1987 likely looked implausible but which an actual occupant of 2017 has seen used in films like *Star Wars: Rogue One*, or even as early as films such as *Forrest Gump* and which I assume is already widely in use for propaganda purposes.

Considering everything publicly Googleable about the political situation of CURRENT YEAR it is amazing to me is that anyone can watch *The Running Man* and compare the Trump Administration to the government in the film. A cute throwaway scene in which the deathmatch TV host Damon Killian (cunningly portrayed by Richard Dawson) holds a quaint corded handset and requests to speak to the "President's agent" is presented as ample evidence of the film's predictive ability, a warning of a nightmarish future in which the dizzying collision course of entertainment and politics has met its logical conclusion which in our timeline has been supposedly consummated in the election of reality TV star Donald Trump.

But the fictional regime's sensationalism and manipulation actually remind me of our real-life CIA-CNN-NBC-NSA military-industrial-media complex more than it does the Trump Administration. In *The Running Man*, the news networks and the White House are a singular unit, working in tandem to subjugate the masses, but how exactly does this remind anybody anywhere of the real-life situation, in which our news media is directly at odds with the White House, apparently colluding with intelligence agencies to spy on and undermine the President [7], to catch him breaking laws that have not been enforced since the 18th century and which every president before him has broken without fanfare [8], laws which hopefully the deluded public won't even take the time to Google and which when violated are presented to the histrionic masses as indisputable evidence of treason, Russian interference or imminent fascist takeover?

Of course these *Running Man* articles are just as absurd as any of the other pretensions that a Trump presidency is a more dangerous threat to democracy than the unelected permanent government whose fangs we are only now beginning to see and which is now working in coordination with the liberal news media to bring down the democratically-elected president. In a Reddit thread about the sudden resurgent interest in George Orwell's *1984*, a novel which is indeed relevant in light of recent events but probably not for any reasons the book's fans really appreciate, user peon2 writes "people don't seem to understand that the fact that you can protest Trump safely, that we can constantly talk shit about Trump all we want without being put on a list, that his revenge is sending out some mean tweets at people instead of having them disappear, means that we are not in some 1984 world" [9]. Redditor StarDestinyGuy quips, "Trump is such a terrifying fascist dictator that literally no one fears speaking out against him on literally any platform" [10].

When you have the CIA hacking into any internet-connected device to spy on US citizens [11], when you have the director of the NSA lying under oath about the true extent of the surveillance state [5], when you have the military unpersoning U.S. citizens without trial [4], when you have CNN telling the proles that reading Wikileaks is illegal [12], when you have an obvious news and social media campaign to manipulate the public into supporting war in Syria with staged photos of dying children [13] [14], when you have national news networks so obviously acting as the propaganda arm of a deeply entrenched and fully unaccountable bureaucracy which remains in power regardless of who is in the White House, which will do everything in its power to continue to profit off of U.S. global hegemony and which is deeply offended by an unorthodox, unpredictable and uncontrollable President Trump, it's hard for me to take seriously a VICE segment in which the fedora-wearing *Running Man* screenwriter is brought on camera [3] to bask in his own prophetic ability and patronise us about the virtue in not believing everything the media says, smugly pretending that he is not part of the media, that he is in any way still "anti-establishment."

If you're going to insist on reading *The Running Man* as any kind of metaphor for Trump it would have to be not in the film's fictional regime but in the main character Ben Richards, as portrayed by Arnold Schwarzenegger: a lone, capable man pitted against a violent and grotesque machine of information control, a man whose unwavering determination even in the face

of abhorrent lies and mass public hatred inspires a revolutionary wave among the oppressed and forgotten--a comparison even richer in the Stephen King novel from which the screenplay supposedly derives.

The Richards of the novel is not a cop like in the movie, rather he is a destitute, Angry White Male (TM), not unlike the archetypal Trump supporter, who resorts to performing in the regime's deadly *Running Man* reality TV show to afford medical care for his dying infant. Like Trump, the Richards of the novel becomes a working-class hero even as he is defamed as a monster by the elites and the lying media. Richards is introduced to the world in a photo altered to make him appear brutish and menacing, "the uptown apartment dweller's boogeyman" [6, p.48], an example of the kind of misrepresentations the media gets away with, which just as in our own universe the upwardly mobile viewership accepts blindly as fact. When Richards is brought on stage the audience is ravenous in their "hysterical vituperation" and mindless hatred for him, reminding me all too uncannily of the Left and their attitude toward Trump. "Women stared at him with frightened, half-sexual expressions. Men grinned up at him with blood-hate in their eyes" [6, p.49]. And, just like Trump, the attitude the elite has toward Richards is (at first) one of patronizing amusement. Killian, who in the novel is not white but rather "so black ... he might have stepped out of a minstrel show" [6, p.34], laughs hysterically and uncontrollably when Richards asks asks him how he might feel if they were to switch places, with Richards as the media elite and Killian as the helpless prey, and considers Richards and his "kind" to be an "anachronism" [6, p.36, 52], archaic, a thing of the past--the same attitude the Left had toward Trump and his supporters up until Election Day: "People won't be in the bars and hotels or gathering in the cold in front of appliance stores rooting for you," the Killian of the novel says, utterly convinced of Richards' inevitable failure just as the Left was convinced of Trump's. "They want to see you wiped out, and they'll help if they can" [6, p.36]. The scene reminds me of a liberal friend who before the election laughed regarding the tragedy of the loss of manufacturing jobs in America, as if finding joy in the hardships of the working-class, as if totally having forgotten the inheritance of the Left... And just like Trump, it's Richards who gets the last laugh at the end of the novel...

The true explanation for the recent excitement around this movie is this: So confident were liberals in their supremacy over the narrative of history that their incredulity over Trump can only properly be expressed in the language of science fiction. You can see this everywhere: A sign at an anti-Trump demonstration read "This episode of *Black Mirror* sucks" [15]. *The Daily Show*'s Trevor Noah referred to the date of the President's inauguration as "the day that time travellers travel back to, to try save the future" [16]. A Scottish newspaper even listed Trump's inaugural ceremony as a *Twilight Zone* reboot in its television listings [17]. Rejecting the Leftist metanarrative constitutes the realm of science fiction as all goodthinkful people know, and on Election Night we were suddenly thrust into the Biff timeline, or perhaps into the world of *The Running Man*.

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Obama's administration made the "Muslim ban" possible and the media won't tell you

Seth J. Frantzman, 2017-01-28

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I was outraged by the ban on refugees from war-torn countries in the Middle East. I've covered refugees fleeing war in Iraq and Syria over the last two years, meeting families [1] on the road in Greece, Serbia and Macedonia, speaking to poor people in Turkey [2] and Jordan [3] and discussing the hopes and fears of people displaced in Iraq [4]. If you want to ban "terrorists," these are the last people to hit with a refugee ban. Instead the government should be using the best intelligence possible to find people being

S. J. Frantzman, "Obama's administration made the 'Muslim ban' possible and the media won't tell you," Terra Incognita, 2017-01-28. [Online]. Available: https://sethfrantzman.com/2017/01/28/obamas-administration-made-the-muslim-ban-possible-and-the-media-wont-tell-you/.

radicalized, some of whom have lived in the US their whole lives or who come from countries not affected by the ban, such as Saudi Arabia [5] or Pakistan [6].

So I was outraged, and then I read the executive order. There are many full texts of the order online, such as at CNN [7], the NYT [8], the WSJ [9] or Independent [10]. According to most reports Trump was banning "nationals of seven Muslim-majority countries from entering the United States for at least the next 90 days." This bars people from Iraq, Syria, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen. US Senator Elizabeth [11] Warren said "Let's be clear: A Muslim ban by any other name is still a Muslim ban," and Senator Chris Murphy claimed "Trump has now handed ISIS a path to rebirth." Media, such as Vox and the *Independent*, compared the ban to banning Jews [12] from entry during the Holocaust and bashed Trump for singing the order on Holocaust memorial day. World leaders are [13] "condemning Trump's Muslim ban," according to headlines.

I had to see for myself, so I read the executive order. The order does seek "to protect the American people from terrorist attacks by foreign nationals admitted to the United States." It says that it seeks "Suspension of Issuance of Visas and Other Immigration Benefits to Nationals of Countries of Particular Concern." It also says "I hereby proclaim that the immigrant and nonimmigrant entry into the United States of aliens from countries referred to in section 217(a)(12) of the INA, 8 U.S.C. 1187(a)(12), would be detrimental to the interests of the United States, and I hereby suspend entry into the United States, as immigrants and nonimmigrants, of such persons for 90 days from the date of this order." And it targets

Syrians specifically. "I hereby proclaim that the entry of nationals of Syria as refugees is detrimental to the interests of the United States and thus suspend its such entry until such time as I have determined that sufficient changes have been made to the USRAP to ensure that admission of Syrian refugees is consistent with the national interest."

But, wait a sec. According to the reports "The order bars all people hailing from Iraq, Syria, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen." Critics had attacked Trump for selecting these seven countries and not selecting other states [14] "linked to his sprawling business empire." Bloomberg [15] and Forbes [16] bought into this.

But, wait a sec. I read the order and Iraq, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen are not mentioned in it.

Go back and read it [7] again. Do a "ctrl-f" to find "Iraq". Where is "Iraq" in the order. It's not there. Only Syria is there. So where are the seven nations? Where is the "Muslim ban"? It turns out this was a form of fake news, or alternative facts. Trump didn't select seven "Muslim-majority" countries. US President Barack Obama's administration selected these seven Muslim-majority countries.

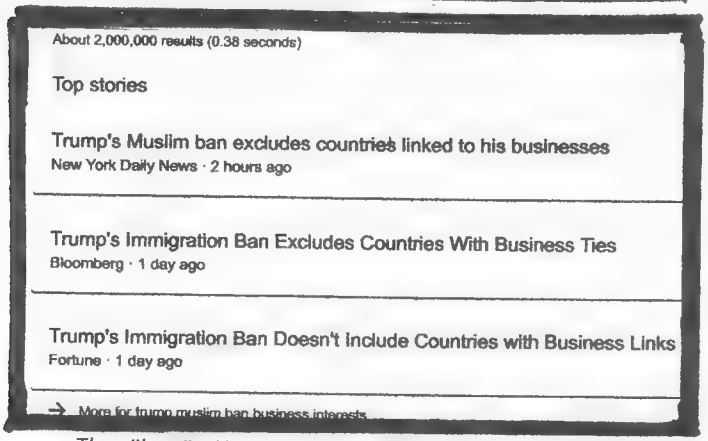
The Department of Homeland [17] Security targeted these seven countries over the last years as countries of concern. In February 2016 "The Department of Homeland Security today announced that it is continuing its implementation of the Visa Waiver Program Improvement and Terrorist Travel Prevention Act of 2015 with the addition of Libya, Somalia, and Yemen as three countries of concern, limiting Visa Waiver Program travel for certain individuals who have traveled to these countries." It noted "the three additional countries designated today join Iran, Iraq, Sudan and Syria as countries subject to restrictions for Visa Waiver Program travel for certain individuals." It was the US policy under Obama to restrict and target [18] people "who have been present in Iraq, Syria, Iran, Sudan, at any time on or after March 1, 2011 (with limited government/military exceptions)." This was text of the US Customs and Border Protection in 2015 relating to "the Visa Waiver Program and Terrorist Travel Protection Act of 2015" [18]. The link even includes the seven nation list in it: "Iraq, Syria, Iran, SUdan, Somalia or Yemen." And the media knew this back in May 2016 when some civil rights groups complained about it [19]. "These restrictions have provoked an outcry from the Iranian-American community, as well as Arab-American and civil-liberties groups, who say the restrictions on dual nationals and certain travelers are discriminatory and could be imposed against American dual nationals."

It was signed into law on December 18, 2015, as part of the Omnibus Appropriations Act of FY2016.

What? So there was a Terrorist Travel Prevention Act of 2015 two years before Trump? There was a kind of "Muslim ban" before the Muslim ban? But almost no one critiqued it in 2015 because it was Obama's administration overseeing it.

So for more than a year it has been US policy to discriminate against, target and even begin to ban people from the seven countries that Trump is accused

of banning immigrants and visitors from. CNN even hinted [7] at this by noting "those countries were named in a 2016 law concerning immigration visas as 'countries of concern.'" But why didn't CNN note that the seven countrieswere not named and that in fact they are only on the list because of Obama's policy?


About 2,000,000 results (0.38 seconds)
Top stories
Trump's Muslim ban excludes countries linked to his businesses
New York Daily News · 2 hours ago
Trump's Immigration Ban Excludes Countries With Business Ties
Bloomberg · 1 day ago
Trump's Immigration Ban Doesn't Include Countries with Business Links
Fortune · 1 day ago
More for trump muslim ban business interests

The "ban" didn't exclude countries linked to business interests, it targeted countries of "concern" drawn up last year by Obama's administration and Congress

Because mainstream media has been purposely lying, either due to ignorance or because of unwillingness to read the document and ask questions and because they are too ready to accept "facts" without investigating. They want to blame Trump for a "Muslim ban" because they were ready with that script since last year. And indeed Trump has enacted a harsh executive order cracking down on visitors from these countries (particularly Syrians), but his crackdown only includes those seven countries because of Obama's policy. Trump's decision to go beyond the policy and increase the Obama policy harms refugees, but it only increases an existing discriminatory policy, it doesn't invent it. Reading media reports you would never know that. Most disingenuous, truly bordering on fake news, are the reports that claimed the seven countries were connected to Trump business interests, as if Obama's DHS picked them because of Trump?

So why didn't anyone of the thousands of reporters covering this read the same document [7] and ask the same question and do the same investigation of where the seven "countries of concern" came from? A simply Google search [20] would have revealed the history. A bit of searching around US code [21] would have explained it.

Top stories
Donald Trump Muslim ban will keep Oscar-nominated director Asghar Farhadi from
The Independent 6 hours ago
US airports on frontline as Trump immigration ban causes chaos and controversy
The Guardian · 20 mins ago
Trump's immigration ban applies to up to 500,000 green card holders
Vox · 8 mins ago

Were reports misleading on Trump "Muslim ban"?

The public should be suspicious of Trump's policies and the media should speak truth to power and demand answers from the administration. But the media should also be truthful with the public and instead of claiming Trump singled out seven countries, it should note that the US Congress and Obama's Department of Homeland Security had singled out these countries. It should have told us about the Terrorist Travel Prevention Act of 2015 rather than pretend this list was invented in 2017. Trump's executive order said "countries of concern," it didn't make a list. That list was already made, last year and years before.

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It's Weird to Love the ACLU and Cheer That Nazi Getting Punched:

The ACLU famously defended the rights of Nazis to march in public

Matt Ruby, 2017-01-23.

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Everyone on the left is giving the ACLU love these days. Makes my little ACLU loving heart swell up.

But plenty of these people are also out there cheering that Nazi getting punched. Feels odd to me.

The ACLU famously defended the rights of Nazis to gather/march in public [1] (in a town filled with holocaust survivors, no less). Seems tough to reconcile these things: "I agree with the ACLU defending the rights of Nazis to march in Skokie but if an individual Nazi speaks on the street I'm cool with a dude sucker punching him."

Do you think the ACLU would support people showing up at that march and physically assaulting those same Nazis it defended? I find it tough to reconcile being a full throated supporter of the ACLU while also endorsing physically assaulting those who follow through on what the ACLU fights to defend. It does not feel morally or philosophically consistent to me. Pick a lane.

Of course what this guy says is completely abhorrent. But the theory is the most disturbing speech is the speech that most needs to be protected. I know, dude totally sucks. I get it. But if you wanna go full on for civil liberties, you've gotta walk the walk.

Also, I've seen several Women's March attendees/supporters turn up on social media to publicly mock Kellyanne Conway's makeup. Seems like this is just reinforcing the unfair beauty standards that women face compared to their male counterparts.

I'm more impressed by attacks on what she says, not how she looks. My idea: Every journalist she talks to gets a bell and rings it each time she pivots away from the question to one of her talking points. #MoreConbell [2]

We hated on what Trump said about Carly Fiorina's face. We hated that old white jerk who elbowed the black dude at a Trump rally. We were right to feel that way. Let's stick with our principles, instead of abandoning them when the targets are people we dislike. That's something I learned from the ACLU.

M. Ruby, "It's Weird to Love the ACLU and Cheer That Nazi Getting Punched", Medium, 2017-01-23. [Online]. Available: https://medium.com/sandpapersuit/love-the-aclu-that-nazi-getting-punched-should-disturb-you-49725663c56a#.jmhiverd3.

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Walker had barely started a bowl of all-natural oatmeal freshly 3D-printed off of the Tyson-Whole Foods app store when the temporal disturbance alarms sounded. Phase IV, isolated to Detroit. Chief Matuzak came rushing to the kitchen and Walker, with a deliberate eye movement, dismissed the Tyson oatmeal advertisements flickering on the inside of his glasses lenses. The holo-montage of the young, multicultural bohemian-looking oat farmers and their good-hearted farming work faded to reveal the Chief's red-faced visage. "Phase IV disturbance," he gasped. "November 2016."

"Lot of activity in that year lately, Chief," Walker said, rising to follow him to the launch chamber. "The 2016 Brexit vote yesterday, and now this?" Walker and his partner Lyle had apprehended three temporal insurgents mere moments before they'd succeeded in altering the historic Brexit vote to favor a non-historical "Leave" victory. Walker and Lyle had been married almost ten years.

The Chief nodded. "Madam President has the NSA looking into it, but right now it's anyone's guess who's trying to alter the timeline."

"Justice-involved persons, possibly," Walker said, his face contorting as he desperately recalled the State Department's most recent tweet on un-biased language. The Chief shot a proud, approving glance at him as they walked into the launch room.

Launch chamber 641A was a huge hangar situated 1.60934 kilometers beneath the Denver International Airport's baggage claim area. Men, women and people of all genders ran around in clean white jumpsuits, checking equipment and adjusting floating interfaces like out of *Minority Report*. In the center of the room sat the time-sled, tapered at the front like a bullet and fixed on a long track ending at the enormous time gate, itself glowing with mysterious temporal energy. OLEDs displayed Walker's destination in a tidy sans-serif font: Detroit, 2016. Walker wasn't even born yet.

"Person of interest is armed with a wireless neuronet card and a Yarygin MP-443," the Chief read off an Apple tablet, careful not to gender the subject. "Zie is planning mentational attacks on voting centers that had a narrow margin of victory in that election year." The Chief looked up from the tablet and fell silent.

"Temporal communications decrypted this morning suggest a suicide mission to alter the 2016 U.S. Presidential Election to favor a non-historical Trump victory."

Walker stared at the Chief grimly. Every school kid or child-identifying person could tell you about the historic election of America's First Woman President. Changing that might mean the Unbiased Speech Act is never enabled, or that Russia and Syria are never liberated from gender binarism by the military forces of the Google-ExxonMobil-Department of Defense Corporation.

People tend to think of history as a straight line, one of continuous progress. Probably because our schools teach it that way, Walker thought. Slavery is abolished, then women can vote, then gays can marry. And then finally sex reassignment surgery is available to toddlers upon request. Everything gets better and better, the "Whig history" as they call it. What they don't understand, Walker realized, is that the line is only continuing toward progress because of the Department of History Enforcement. We protect the timeline from disruption by justice-involved persons.

"Person of interest is set to arrive at a voting center in Detroit on Election Day 2016," the Chief continued as Walker zipped up his time displacement suit. "Zir ethnicity, age, physical appearance, abledness and gender assigned at birth are of course utterly irrelevant here." Walker nodded his head, listening carefully to the neutral, inoffensive description and repeating it to himself mentally to commit it to memory. It was imperative that the nondescript individual be identified and stopped.

Walker holstered his blaster. "What kind of sick madman...," he began, before covering his mouth in shame.

"Careful, Walker," the Chief said, looking around. "I won't log that microaggression, but cut the problematic language until you get to Detroit. That'll be over ten years before the first speech codes are even enacted."

Walker climbed into the time sled and strapped in, readying himself to prevent the nonhistorical election of Donald J. Trump, November 8, 2016.

"Non-denominational godspeed," the Chief said, as the time sled's automatic doors closed, Delorean style.

Walker parked his period-accurate vehicle in the high school parking lot and waited, blaster drawn. Signs leading from the parking lot up into the campus of one-story brick buildings read "VOTE HERE." Early 21st century citizens stood in line, single file, checking their ancient "smartphones" as they waited. Any one of them could be the perpetrator, Walker thought, presently programming their neuronet card to influence the political persuasions of every susceptible mind within a 91.44 meter radius.

Walker never would have said it around the Chief, but he figured the person of interest was probably a damn Russian. Despite the DoD Corporation's best efforts, Moscow was still the kind of retrograde place that believed little boys playing with dolls and favoring

the color pink shouldn't have their genitals surgically altered to resemble vulvas.

He took a moment to look around, intrigued by the anachronisms. A 7/11, but no electric charging stations. A Radioshack, laughably, still in business. A Chipotle across the street, apparently still able to sell inorganic food. The chain's "farm-to-drive-through" PR pivot was still about a decade away.

Something about the era was backward, of course. Plebeian, even vulgar. But there was a little freedom here too. Afforded perhaps by the total lack of, Walker thought, oversight. Sure, the CIA-Apple complex had already begun its geo-tracking program, but no one was chipped yet, and facial recognition software was still in its infancy. There wasn't yet an unelected council deciding respectful speech, a power that finally erased hate groups but which also became an awfully convenient way to silence activists the government decided they didn't like. And President Marissa K. Tilla's Living Wage Act was still a generation or two away, meaning it was still legal to get a job without a Master's degree... Of course you wouldn't want to stay here, Walker thought, with these rubes, and thank god we finally did pass all those speech laws...

A minivan suddenly pulled up into the lot and parked. A black man emerged from the car and locked the door, well-dressed, probably a professional. There was one problem: Trump and Romney stickers adorned the rear of his vehicle. Impossible, Walker thought. There was also a Jesus fish and a sticker that said "Man + Woman = Marriage." Unlikely!

He watched as the man walked to the back of the line and began to wait. It's just not possible, Walker thought, that a black man has chosen to vote Republican on his own. He must have been hacked by the Russians, he's under the influence of a neuronet card. After all, what kind of black person votes for Trump, *doesn't he know what's good for him*? He's under someone else's control, Walker thought. There's no way he's done this on his own. I thought by 2016 Jim Crow was over!

These damn Russians! Trying to control how people think and vote! No respect for the underprivileged, Walker thought. Unlike me! He smiled at himself in the rearview mirror.

He got out of the car and pointed his blaster straight at the black man. "Black Lives Matter!" he yelled, sauntering closer, his blaster drawn. "Black Lives Matter!" Screams erupted from the crowd and people bolted in all directions, but the man stood still, watching Walker as he neared.

"Don't worry, sir," Walker said, holding up his History Enforcement badge. "I'll protect your brain from those Russian hackers! They have no right to tell you how to think!"

Suddenly the man drew his own gun and narrowed it at Walker. "Stay back, man! I got a wife and kids!" He looked confused and frightened.

Walker halted. "Put that weapon away, citizen! You are in violation of the National Firearms Agreement of 2026!"

Suddenly a Detroit police cruiser pulled into the parking lot and officers came out, guns drawn only on the black man. The black man pointed his gun back at them.

"Freeze!" the cops yelled.

"I can't believe how racist you cops are!" Walker said. "He has the right to protect himself!"

The black man turned his gun back at Walker.

"Put that weapon away, citizen!" Walker yelled. "Guns have no place in a civilized society!"

The black man turned his gun back at the cops and they demanded he put it on the ground.

"He has the right to protect himself against your white supremacy you fucking pigs!" Walker yelled at the cops.

The black man turned his gun back at Walker.

"Put that gun away you maniac psycho gun nut! You have no right to own such a despicable thing!" Walker yelled. "You oughta be in fucking prison!"

Walker heard something crunch under his boot steps and he stopped. Lifting his foot up to observe the bottom of his boot he found a flattened butterfly, quite beautiful and quite dead.

The time sled returned Walker to the hangar with a sound of thunder, and the Chief was there ready to greet him.

"Who are you?" the Chief asked. "Where is Deutscher?"

"You don't know who I am, Chief?" Walker asked, confused.

"Get ICE in here," he yelled to someone in the back. Walker looked around. The emblem of the United States, once adorning the hangar, had been replaced by a single bold letter "T", its tail ending in a stylized lightning bolt. A lot of the room's technology, state of the art when he left, looked like it had suddenly regressed thirty, forty years--maybe more.

"Tell me something, Chief," Walker said, the realization settling in. "Who is President?"

"President? You know we got rid of that commie bullshit a half century ago! Donald the Third is currently reigning and the economy's never been better!"

Walker felt numb. Completely. All over his body.

Large men in black trench coats appeared, armed with a type of gun Walker hadn't seen before. The insignia of the bold stylized "T" in a white circle against a red field decorated their armbands.

"Ethnicity papers, sir," one of them said, staring dully.

"Ethnicity papers? I'm Max Walker. Senior History Enforcement Field Agent."

"Ethnicity papers. Or it's the camps, sir."

Million Dollar Extreme's Adult Swim Show Becomes Collateral Damage Of Trump's Victory

By Robert Mariani

Adult Swim has canceled 'Million Dollar Extreme Presents: World Peace,' which gave us experimental proof that self-caricature and impenetrability are explosive when mixed.

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Donald Trump was elected president against the predictions of everyone and the wishes of everyone important. "How could it come to this? Aren't there *rules* against this?" the latter folks ask. Of course there are, and rule-breakers get punished.

News broke a few days ago about the first batch of retribution against boundary-crossers in the furor at Trump's election. Adult Swim canceled "Million Dollar Extreme Presents: World Peace," which had just finished its first season. The show was bizarre and sublime, familiar to anyone who remembers Tom Green or who has seen other Adult Swim productions like the "Tim and Eric Awesome Show." Half of the sketches were taboo-defying knee slappers [1] and the other half bordered on incomprehensible [2], but all of them transmitted to viewers what seemed to be the manic daydreams of "Million Dollar Extreme," the YouTube-born comedy trio behind the show.

"World Peace" wasn't just toiling in the status quo, though. Where Green was sincere goofiness and "Tim and Eric" was defined by absolute irony, Million Dollar Extreme finished the sequence by muddling the qualities of the previous two. It was post-ironic [3]. Maybe this is trouble?

Figuring out the intentions of the ironist is easy: whatever is being shown is being mocked. But the post-ironist folds over on his own sincerity with exaggeration, using the ironic not just to ridicule, but also to enjoy the absurdities of what he genuinely appreciates.

MDE gave us experimental proof that self-caricature and impenetrability are explosive when mixed, at least for right-wingers. Its members—Sam Hyde, Nick Rochefort, and Charles Carroll—are all open about their support for Trump, and were slapped with a cancellation, excellent ratings be damned. The first "World Peace" episode had more than a million viewers [4], only a few hundred thousand behind established blockbusters like "Family Guy" and "Bob's Burgers," an impressive feat for a brand new show on the 12:15 time slot.

It wasn't a matter of personally pissing off the top brass at Adult Swim, either. Hyde, who is something of a frontman for MDE, told me over the phone that the executives said they loved the show, and renewed it for a second season as soon as the first had aired.

R. Mariani, "Million Dollar Extreme's Adult Swim Show Becomes Collateral Damage Of Trump's Victory," The Federalist, 2016-12-12. [Online]. Available: http://thefederalist.com/2016/12/12/million-dollar-extremes-adult-swim-show-becomes-collateral-damage-trumps-victory/.

From its inception the media buzzed about it being an "alt-right" show—journalists love using terms so ambiguous they can mean anything the author wants—but "World Peace" was mostly apolitical. It made political statements just as infrequently as any other sketch show, except opposite the typical direction, with the trio tipping their culturally right-wing hand every now and then.

This, combined with Hyde retweeting too-edgy Twitter accounts, put a bad taste in the mouths of powerful entertainment industry figures that couldn't be ignored. Judd Apatow, perhaps the single most important name in comedy today, directly spoke to Adult Swim chief Mike Lazzo to get him to cancel the show, according to Hyde.

Even comics inside the network, such as Brett Gelman and Vic Berger, used their pull to put the accursed Trump supporters in their place. The network executives, including ones from minority groups, were bummed out, but the cancellation was a casualty of the narrative that Adult Swim doesn't hire enough women. Whether a narrative is true doesn't matter. All that matters is whether the accusation is loud enough to get our cultural gods to stoop to notice. Something, *someone*, had to be sacrificed to appease them, so why not make it non-believers?

Gelman and Berger make all of this a neat little package. Their respective productions are surreal in a way that may be on the same level as "World Peace," but more important than any similarities are their differences. Where there was a practical cottage industry of news and commentary articles about "World Peace" being badthink, the two other comics got nothing but praise for being supposedly bold.

The tediously unfunny "Brett Gelman's Dinner in America" aimed to tackle racism in the United States, and its trailer showed Gelman—the absolute maverick that he is—burning a Confederate flag. Whoah, can you do that? I think you can and I think that zero important people will care, but the *Los Angeles Times* hailed [5] him as a bold satirist nonetheless. Gelman cut ties with Adult Swim in November ostensibly due to the network's sexism and MDE's racism, but Hyde argues that the departure was due to Gelman's material not being funny enough to air, a position that's hard to contradict.

Slightly less unfunny was Berger's contribution to the "Trump is dumb xD" genre of humor favored by teenage redditors. He made a YouTube video of debate footage modified in a wacky way to make Trump look, you know, stupid. *The New Yorker* saw silly editing and remembered that Trump was bad, so it decided [6] this had to be a very funny "ubiquitous and enigmatic" work of satire. Wired literally called Berger a genius [7] in its headline for making the video, so I'll just leave it at that.

These two are iconoclasts in the way that America loves, courageously standing up to speak in favor of those things we're supposed to believe and against all those things that everyone hates. Grafting an air of the outlandish and experimental to unquestioning devotion to the new American civil religion is an obvious way of having a cake and eating it too. It simultaneously gives the rush of feeling like a punk-rock rebel while providing the cocoon-like reassurance of being in line with the ruling ideology. Everyone wants to feel daring while never actually being in any danger.

The truth is that leftists aren't dissenters anymore, despite the increasingly desperate theatrics [8] to somehow seem that way. For something to be dissent it has to be able to *hurt* the dissenter. No substantive penalties, no dissent. MDE crossed the wrong boundaries, and got their show cancelled.

Everyone else "violates" boundaries so worn-down from routine traffic that it's hard to even identify them as boundaries any more. Their shows are safe. They're safe no matter how far left you go. That's because leftists, even the "radical" ones, are not in the business of actually challenging the powerful, but of petitioning the powerful to move the slider even further in their direction.

You didn't change, American, but the ground slid under you and things now look different. Laws and boundaries exist *for a reason*. With the ugliness of law-breakers and boundary-crossers, it couldn't be more obvious. How was it that you were the first to figure this out?

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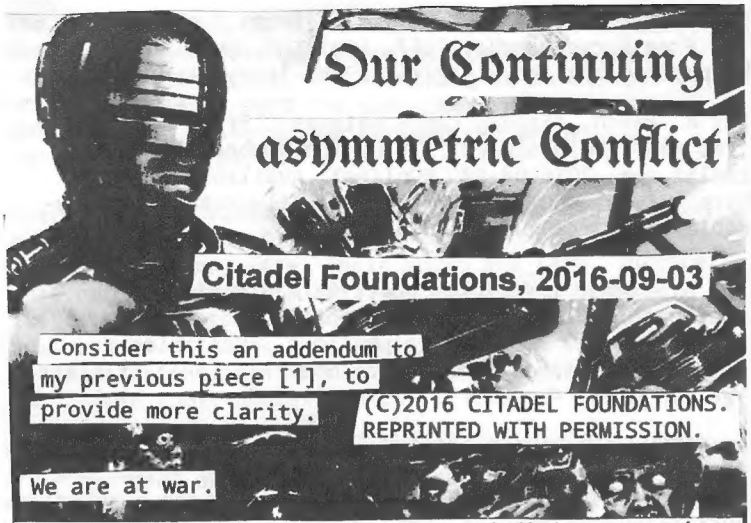
Our Continuing
asymmetric Conflict
Citadel Foundations, 2016-09-03
Consider this an addendum to my previous piece [1], to provide more clarity.
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We are at war.

We have been at war, in the sense of divine war, since the French Revolution cemented the feet of Modernity on Occidental soil, proceeding from there to stamp its hideous footprint onto every nation of the world. This is not a conventional kind of conflict of course, neither hot nor cold, but constantly in a state of oscillation. At certain periods it has been the platform of bloody struggle, but for the most part it has been a low-level guerrilla campaign on our part to preserve the shreds of past glory from the juggernaut of Liberalism which will use any strategy it can in order to dispossess us and ensure that we do not escape once the yawning abyss of its own internal contradiction finally implodes.

M. Citadel, "Our Continuing Asymmetric Conflict," Citadel Foundations, 2016-09-03. [Online]. Available: https://citadelfoundations.blogspot.ca/2016/09/our-continuing-asymmetric-conflict.html.

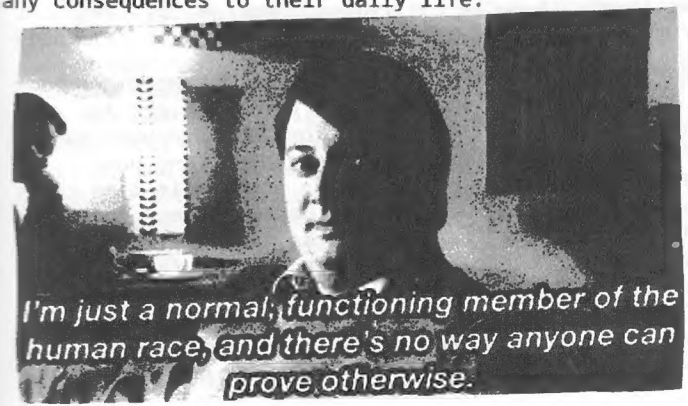
Imagine a barren prison chamber with a poisonous snake inside, one that would someday die as all living things do, but was peculiar in the fact that it could not be killed. If you were locked inside such a chamber, you could wait the snake out, but you could not be inert. Assuming the creature was unaware of its invulnerability, you would have to make it afraid of you, drive back its predatory advances.

This is the justification for whatever goes above and beyond the pursuit of virtue, the betterment of oneself. What folly it would be to think that Liberalism, this behemoth, would be felled by a paltry election or by discrediting some particular group of its advocates or practitioners. These things will not bring about an end to the Modern World, but they may allow us to preserve some valued piece of our history, our culture, our very lives, and strengthen our position. I said in a recent article [2] that I was throwing my unabashed support behind Donald Trump's presidential campaign for the pure reason that his realist view of international relations is invaluable to Russian interests, and to end what I view as senseless bloodshed and misery in the Middle East. What do I sacrifice in endorsing this boorish yet surprisingly refreshing opportunist? Nothing. I do not feel that I have compromised my principles in endorsing him for despite the fact that I despise democratic politics, he would help achieve the Reactionary goal I outlined earlier, the preservation of something under threat, and trust me when I say he is weirdly unique in that regard.

The majority of the AltRight does not think in these terms. Those who are not simply attention-whores or shock jockeys have vague notions about Trump ushering in a new era of 'free association' which will somehow solve the United States' demographic problems. Others believe his quick-fix protectionism will bring the moribund economy roaring back to life when the issues are rooted far deeper than Chinese sweatshops. Still others have fostered amongst themselves a loathing of political correctness and newspeak, and see Trump as their halberd to smash open the door and say what has been on their mind all along concerning blacks, jews, women, etc.

Perhaps in my previous piece I deviated from what I usually do, which is to put forward the Reactionary interest, in order to praise all of the things that the AltRight has accomplished. Some may say that these achievements exist only in cyberspace, and to an extent they are right, however cyberspace is a space. Its a field of warfare opened up by the invention of the internet, for better or for worse, and unlike previous fields (civil institutions, many churches, even real battlefields) it is one in which victories against the Cathedral are starting to snowball. Now, I did say a while ago that I believe this will eventually lead to this space being liquidated [3], but that's a bridge to cross when we come to it.

I am willing to accept that a major portion of the AltRight is not in any way serious, that it contains within it a smörgåsbord of degenerates, crass buffoons, edgy nihilists, and even people with very questionable mental states (the best figures involved in the movement would also concede this to be true). This is the case for any fringe movement, especially when such descriptors could apply to a large segment of the given population in most Western countries. I can't fix that, and it would be a waste of my time to try. I'm not a life-coach, and I'm certainly not a priest. When an ideological position is put forward and strikes me as antithetical to rightism, I will say so, but it would be presumptuous of me to think that the aforementioned individuals would respond to calls to 'tone down the rhetoric' or 'be a little nicer to Ben Shapiro'. One AltRight publication with many times over the interest that my blog generates had tried to do such a thing [4] and did not succeed in dampening the meme-brigades of Twitter and 4chan. It becomes even harder to make such a proclamation when these tactics are ones that are winning rhetorical battles and scuttling an entire Potemkin opposition in their wake. If I were to hazard a guess, the degeneracy of trolling is probably amplified simply by the nature of the online medium. Anybody can slip into a pseudonymous identity and do as they please, without any consequences to their daily life.



People who follow my Twitter can judge for themselves

how complicit I am in crass discourse. I have my fun, but I don't think I'm all that bad (hence why my ADL-certified Twitter ban was a surprise). In my writings and my conversations with people in this corner of the dissident right, I have found an unparalleled mix of intellectuals whose knowledge of metapolitics, economics, esotericism, genetics, etc. is astounding, and this pillar is one that will endure because it is one that has endured since Reaction received its baptism of fire in the 1700s. Long after Twitter and 4chan are gone, this will still exist. I do not feel the broad AltRight is damaging this 'school' in any way, and instead it is actually helping achieve some objectives (one aforementioned is geopolitical multipolarity). Gauging as best one can the quality of the average shitposting AltRighter, I do not think there is a way that such people could be put to better use than helping weaken the attack vectors of our sworn enemies and thus, wittingly or unwittingly, helping to achieve something for the future of our peoples.

The demotic, leveling view is always a temptation, but it is a false one. Not even the radical right is immune to a hierarchy of function. Not everyone can be held to the same intellectual standard, and not everyone has better things to do with their time than ask why it is that Japan never has to accept any migrants but Hungary not doing so is some kind of war crime. We cannot police this space, this foothold that the AltRight currently has. We cannot wrap it in a nice ribbon. What we can do isencourage [5] what elements help to achieve Reactionary goals, and discourage [6] what elements hurt this endeavor. I have done both to the best of my ability.

We are not in a war of equally opposing forces. Our enemy has all of the advantages one can imagine save one; being in alignment with truth. The conflict that is waged is one in which we are on the back foot, and one which we do not have the luxury of fighting exactly as we would like. Certainly our adversaries are not deserving of common courtesy, that much is obvious to me. I have more respect for bloodthirsty Jihadists than I have for the average Harvard social studies professor or Guardianista. When a lone man is accosted by a pack of bandits, the rules of fair play scarcely cross his mind. He will do anything to save his skin, even if his methods would be decidedly measured under other circumstances. This is why I am not particularly repulsed by the tactics of provocation used by most in the AltRight, and do not see their negative aspects as outweighing the good things that are being achieved through them.

It would be correct to say that the AltRight 'renaissance' has incidental value, rather than intrinsic value. Squandering this value, however ephemeral it might be, seems unnecessary to me. For over a year now, the Reactosphere has been grappling with how exactly it can coordinate its relationship with the nascent AltRight which seems to encapsulate so many areas of activity and thought. The previous article, and this one, are my attempts to do so. Obviously the broad coalition is unworkable as a foundation for anything concrete, but it exposes our thought to greater numbers of potential converts, and in the process gives a black eye to the left on a medium that is vital for our own activities. I would like to think the quality of my analysis, for the years I have been writing, has not declined and so those who do follow me understand that I am not a shitposter. I remain a Reactionary in no uncertain terms, but a Reactionary can still look at the

exploits of the day players and say "you did good, kid".

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